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Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

Input to the work of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development

Note by the Secretariat

1. The present note provides a summary of the contribution that the work of the Commission on the Status of Women can make to the work of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2019.

2. In its resolution 72/305 on the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, the Assembly introduced changes with implications for the subsidiary bodies of the Council. Among other provisions in the resolution, the Assembly described the substantive leadership that the Council would provide, and determined that subsidiary bodies of the Council shall adopt their own respective themes, aligned with the main theme, while continuing to address issues or a theme necessary to discharge their other functions.

3. The General Assembly determined that, at its integration segment, the Economic and Social Council would discuss and consolidate all the inputs of Member States, the subsidiary bodies of the Council, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders to promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. The segment would also coordinate the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council, promoting a clearer division of labour among them.

4. The Economic and Social Council should also strengthen the oversight and coordination role of its subsidiary bodies and integrate the outcomes of their work into its own. Subsidiary bodies should support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the work of the Council, and their work should reflect an integrated and action-oriented approach to the Sustainable Development Goals, with recommendations that build on a review of progress on the 2030 Agenda and of the outcomes of conferences and summits in their respective areas. Each subsidiary body must also consider whether there is a continued need for annual

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negotiated outcomes and ensure that, when they produce such outcomes, they are effective and action-oriented and result in increased levels of cooperation.

5. In accordance with its current methods of work (see Council resolution 2015/6), the Commission contributes to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda, so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and reports on the aspects relating to gender equality and the empowerment of women of the agreed main theme of the Economic and Social Council, in order to contribute to the work of the Council. The Commission applies a thematic approach to its work and adopts a multi-year programme of work. In selecting its priority theme, the Commission takes into consideration, in addition to the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the programme of work of the Council, as well as the 2030 Agenda, so as to build synergies and contribute to the work of the Council system and the high-level political forum. At its sixty-fourth session, the Commission will undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; and will decide on its future multi-year programme of work (see Council resolution 2018/8).

6. The theme of the 2019 session of the Economic and Social Council, as indicated in its decision 2017/208, is "One world for all: empowering people to build equal and inclusive societies". In accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/299, the high-level political forum will, in 2019, consider the theme "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality" and will conduct an in-depth review of Goals 4, 8, 10, 13 and 16, as well as Goal 17.

7. The multi-year programme of work of the Commission, as contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/3, enables the Commission to build synergies and linkages with the work of the Council and the high-level political forum in order to contribute to the accelerated realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Commission will consider the following topics in 2019:

Priority theme: social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

Review theme: women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session)

Focus area: to be determined

8. The thematic focus of the Council and the high-level political forum in 2019 can benefit significantly from the recent work of the Commission.

9. In its agreed conclusions on women's empowerment and the links to sustainable development adopted at its sixtieth session, in 2016, the Commission set out a comprehensive road map for the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Those recommendations for action are relevant to the themes of the Council and the high-level political forum in 2019. The Commission's evaluation, at its sixty-third session, of progress made in the implementation of the agreed conclusions of its sixtieth session can constitute further input.

10. At its sixty-first session, in 2017, the Commission, in its agreed conclusions on women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work, set out steps and measures necessary to overcome persistent inequalities, discrimination and barriers that women face in the current world of work and actions needed to ensure that women can take full advantage of the opportunities that are arising as the world of work is changing.

11. At its sixty-second session, in 2018, the Commission, in its agreed conclusions on challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment

of rural women and girls, set out a comprehensive approach to overcome persistent inequalities, discrimination and barriers faced by women and girls living in rural areas and outlined concrete measures to lift all rural women and girls out of poverty and to ensure the realization of their rights, well-being and resilience.

12. The priority theme of its sixty-third session enables the Commission to best support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the work of the Council. It is in line with the themes of the 2019 session of the Council and the high-level political forum and can contribute directly to their deliberations. An integrated and action-oriented approach to ensuring social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls has enormous potential. In target 5.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, those factors are explicitly acknowledged as being critical for addressing unpaid care and domestic work, which is disproportionately carried out by women and girls. Gender-responsive policies and actions across all three areas can advance women's income security, facilitate their access to education, training and decent work and raise the productivity of both their paid and unpaid labour, thus contributing to the building of equal and inclusive societies.

13. The outcomes of the consideration by the Commission of its priority theme are expected to be in the form of agreed conclusions, which can catalyse and effectively support the Council and the high-level political forum in the integration of gender perspectives into their deliberations and outcomes. Chair's summaries of ministerial round tables, interactive dialogues and expert panels will also be available. The report of the Secretary-General on the priority theme (E/CN.6/2019/3) can also support the deliberations.